

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00 INR-05

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-01 EB-04 COME-00 DRC-01 /031 W

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R 171405Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4228

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E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, IS

SUBJECT: CENSORSHIP OF UPI

REF: STATE 227135

1. UPI CLEARLY VIOLATED CENSORSHIP GUIDELINES WHICH PROVIDE FOR CLEARANCE OF NEWS MATTER INVOLVING SECURITY. THIS NATURALLY INCLUDES ALL TERRORIST ACTIVITY. IN PRACTICE, CENSORSHIP NORMALLY CARRIED OUT IN MANNER OF "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT." NEWSMEN KNOW WHEN THEY HAVE SENSITIVE STORY AND ARE EXPECTED TO SUBMIT IT PRIOR TO RELEASE. THIS PARTICULAR STORY, ACCORDING ONE NEWSMAN, "AUTOMATICALLY" FELL WITHIN GUIDELINES.

2. AS A RESULT OF THIS INDISCRETION, UPI ORDERED TO SUBMIT ENTIRE OUTGOING FILE TO CENSOR. SUCH A REQUIREMENT CONSTITUTES NUISANCE TO CENSOR AS WELL AS AGENCY INVOLVED AND IS NORMALLY WITHDRAWN WITHIN A WEEK. IN CASE OF UPI'S SATURDAY VIOLATION CENSOR ALSO REQUIRED WRITTEN EXPLANATION AS TO HOW IT OCCURRED.

3. RESTRICTION LEVIED UPON UPI NOT RPT NOT UNUSUAL. AP HAS OCCASIONED SIMILAR REACTIONS OVER PAST FEW YEARS. UPI SIGNLED OUT IN THIS INSTANCE BECAUSE IT WAS AGENCY WHICH BROKE NEWS OF INCURSION. OTHER AGENCIES AND SPECIALS KNEW OF INCURSION BUT CHECKED FIRST WITH CENSOR. AFTER UPI RELEASED ITEM, OTHER AGENCIES WERE ALLOWED TO FILE ONLY AS MUCH AS UPI HAD CARRIED.

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4. ISRAELI MEDIA, PARTICULARLY RADION, WERE ORDERED TO REMAIN SILENT ON INCURSION FOR SOME 48 HOURS PRIOR RECEIVING PERMISSION TO QUOTE FOREIGN AGENCY REPORTS.

5. AS FURTHER BACKGROUND, NEWSMEN OFFENDING GOI CENSORSHIP REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN KNOWN TO INCUR OR BE THREATENED WITH FOUR DEGREES OF RESPONSE: (1) WRITTEN EXPLANATION REQUIRED: (2) ORDER TO SUBMIT ALL COPY TO CENSORSHIP: (3) REMOVAL OF TELEX MACHINE FROM OFFICE, NECESSITATING TRANSMITTAL OF COPY THROUGH GOVT POST OFFICE FACILITIES: (4) LIFTING OF ACCREDITATION. THIS LAST MEASURE, TO BEST OF VETERAN NEWSMEN'S RECOLLECTION, USED ONLY ONCE: AGAINST CBS NEWSMAN WHO REPORTED SOME FOUR YEARS AGO THAT ISRAELI ARMORED FORCE HAD "INVADED" EGYPT. FORCE WAS ON OTHER SIDE OF CANAL, BUT HAD NOT YET RETURNED WHEN STORY CARRIED.
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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